



REDWOOD COAST LAND CONSERVANCY

Dedicated to protection of open spaces and natural resources from the Navarro to the Russian rivers

CAMPAIGN FOR RCLC PROJECTS MAKES ENCOURAGING PROGRESS

by Laurie Mueller

This summer, RCLC launched a campaign to raise \$50,000 to complete the purchase of Hearn Gulch, expand the Gualala Bluff Trail, and build trails down to Cook's Beach and St. Orres Beach. Thanks to our many contributors, we are well on the way to meeting our campaign goal. To date we have received more than \$17,000, which we are already using to make progress on our four major projects.

Hearn Gulch

\$10,000 of the funds raised so far will be used to meet matching funds requirements for the state Coastal Conservancy's \$240,000 grant to RCLC to purchase the southern portion of the Hearn Gulch headlands.

Gualala Bluff Trail

Funds raised will be used to buy about \$2,000 in materials and to obtain permits to improve Phase I and build

Phase II of the Gualala Bluff trail from the Surf Motel to Ocean Song.

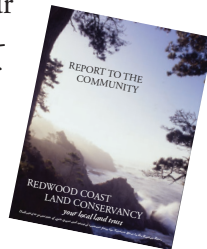
Cook's Beach/ Bourn's Landing

RCLC will use more than \$5,000 in project funds for county permit fees and required geological, archaeological and botanical surveys prior to beginning work on the trail and viewing platform.

St. Orres Beach

As soon as funds allow, RCLC is ready to submit permits and begin the necessary surveys to enable us to build the trail down to St. Orres Beach.

For more information about these projects, please see our website, www.rc-lc.org. For a copy of our Community Report please call Bob at 884-4426 and we will mail it to you. 🌲



CHALLENGE MET

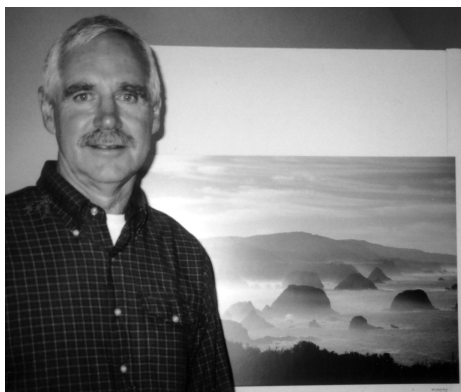
Thanks to the wonderful response from more than 80 contributors, we have matched the anonymous \$5,000 challenge grant which was donated to RCLC to encourage new and greater contributions.

Now the challenge is to raise the rest of the funds needed to complete these projects.

Your contribution to this campaign will help RCLC:

- build the trail and improve parking and public access at Hearn Gulch
- complete the Gualala Bluff Trail
- build the viewing platform and trail at Cook's Beach
- obtain permits and build the trail down to St. Orres Beach

With your help, RCLC can move quickly to complete these projects and provide public access to four beautiful sites for our residents and visitors to enjoy. 🌲



Bill Perry. Photo by Bob Rutemoeller

BILL PERRY WINS AIR PRIZE

The judges for Gualala Arts Art-in-the-Redwoods awarded the RCLC Environmental Award to Bill Perry, for his spectacular photo.

Bill sent us this note: "Dear Coastsavers, Photographers merely make pictures of what is there. The important thing is that it still is there, which you seem to be doing a very good job of protecting and conserving. Thank you! And thank you very much for the Conservancy's Art in the Redwoods award and prize. I have received so many compliments for winning that none of my hats fit.

Warmest regards, Bill" 🌲

REDWOOD COAST LAND CONSERVANCY

PRESIDENT: Laurie Mueller
 VICE PRESIDENT: Shirley Eberly
 SECRETARY: Lois Lutz
 TREASURER: Bob Rutemoeller
 DIRECTORS: Rosemarie Hocker, Ray Van de Water
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 BLUFF TRAIL COMMITTEE: Randy Burke, Mary Sue Ittner, Cecilia Moelter, Fiona O'Neill and Bill Wiemeyer
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TRAIL MONITORS: Trudy and John Armer, Heinz and Lisa Gewing, Paula Gordon, Mary Sue Ittner, Nancy Killian, Bob and Sue Lease, Cecilia Moelter, Kathleen Sandidge, John and Jackie Peterson, Cora Lee Seale, Gail Taylor, and Jan Venolia

CONTRIBUTORS to this issue include Shirley Eberly, Rosemarie Hocker, Mary Sue Ittner, Lois Lutz, Cecilia Moelter, Laurie Mueller, Bill Perry, Bob Rutemoeller, and Harmony Susalla

RCLC is a member of the National Land Trust Alliance, California Land Trust Council, Redwood Coast Chamber of Commerce.

RCLC OBJECTIVES

The specific purposes of this corporation include, but are not limited to:

- (a) The conservation of lands for recreational, educational, ecological, agricultural, scenic and open space opportunities. Conservation of lands shall be accomplished by acquiring real property or partial interests therein, including conservation easements as defined in California Civil Code Section 815.2, and recording appropriate instruments necessary to protect in perpetuity the physical environment of the area for wildlife, ecological and aesthetic purposes beneficial to the public interest;
- (b) To promote, activate and develop public coastal accesses to the ocean, rivers and other natural or scenic features, including developing trails, paths and walkways;
- (c) To study, project and develop plans for future needs in respect to public recreational lands, accesses and facilities;
- (d) To determine open space and conservation needs in the coastal areas of Mendocino and Sonoma counties and to arrange for necessary stewardship and conservation by easements, agreements or other mechanisms;
- (e) To publicize local needs of the type mentioned above and to raise funds by public subscriptions, grants or other means as necessary to meet such objectives.

PLEASE CHECK YOUR NEWSLETTER LABEL

If there is a "03" or "04" in front of your name, that means you have sent RCLC a contribution or membership donation for that year. If there is no number to the left of your name, or if it shows a contribution for 2003, please consider helping us this year. A contribution form is printed on the return envelope in this issue. Thanks for your help.

TRAIL BLAZING ... CONTINUED

by Cecilia Moelter

Northern California weather, heedless of the calendar, continues our banana belt summer through September into early October. What a reward, when walking the Bluff Trail in August to witness two river otters playing. Do you wish for a quiet moment? Stroll to the bluff west of Trinks (just north of Sea Cliff). Tucked under the pine is a bench for viewing the river, ocean, birds and seals. If you spy a whale, you join a special group claiming this as the perfect location for whale watching. Present RCLC plans are to install a low fence midway along the trail and add new signs.

This section of the trail, called Phase One, stays in admirable condition thanks to our Bluff Trail Monitors, a crew of 16 volunteers, organized by

Mary Sue Ittner (see below). For someone wishing to make a community service contribution, this might be of interest.

Progress on Phase Two of the trail, which will include a defined pathway, stairs, a bridge and a path to a rock outcrop overlooking the river, has been slow. Permits just received from the county authorize RCLC to begin building as soon as possible. The very generous award received from the Coastal Conservancy continues to grow with matching funds, but this amount must be increased to complete the project. Any donations of money, time or talent for Gualala Bluff Trail, Phase Two would be welcome. Please enjoy the trail! 🌲

GUALALA BLUFF TRAIL MONITORS

by Mary Sue Ittner

Earlier this year I asked members of the Thursday Ramblers hiking group if they would be willing to help monitor the Gualala Bluff Trail so the hard working RCLC board members could be relieved of this duty and concentrate on their other projects. A number of people responded with a yes and they joined other non board members who were already serving.

Monitors walk the trail once during the week they are scheduled, picking up trash, looking for problems, answering questions for people using the trail, and occasionally tending to our plants that border the trail (weeding, pruning, etc.) Then they email a short

report to me. It is not very time consuming, especially when there are enough people to share this job. It is done in a beautiful place and is a way to support the goals of this organization.

Thanks are extended to John and Trudy Armer, Heinz

and Lisa Gewing, Cora Lee Seale, Nancy Killian, Gail Taylor, Paula Gordon, Jan Venolia, Bob and Sue Lease, Cecilia Moelter, John and Jackie Peterson, and Kathleen Sandidge. When the trail is extended, we will be required to monitor the extension twice a week.

Please contact me at 884-4824 or msittner@mcn.org if you are interested in volunteering or to learn more. 🌲



Gualala Bluff Trail. Photo by Bob Rutemoeller

RCLC PROFILE - Lois Lutz

I joined the Board in the spring of 2003 and am currently serving as Secretary. Probably the most important thing I bring to RCLC is my 8 years of experience serving on the Board, and as an officer, of a Land Trust in the Livermore Valley.

Since I was already deeply involved in that Land Trust I was excited to find a Conservancy existing in the Gualala area. My husband Harry, and I finished building a second home here in 1994. Of course we came here because we loved the beauty of the coast, but an unexpected bonus was how quickly we got to know some wonderful people, especially through Hikes for Health, Audubon, and the Native Plant Society. One of the first people we met was Ray Van de Water, and since we were both working on Land Trust Boards it was a natural topic of conversation. I was fascinated with the concept of the Gualala Bluff trail providing public access to a vista largely hidden from the road by buildings. I naturally continued to follow the work of RCLC, but I still had a major commitment to the other Land Trust until my term limit was reached late in 2002. When that time came I was finally convinced that, even though just a part-time resident, I would be able to contribute something of value as a Board Member.

I grew up back on the East coast on Long Island, New York, and in Connecticut. We were always close to the water, enjoying swimming and later on sailing. Family vacations were often to wooded lakes in the mountains. I developed a strong interest in nature, even creating my own nature museum as a child. Mostly I collected bird nests, insects, rocks, and shells, but a live garter snake was one of the attractions for a while until I let it go.

I graduated from Brown University with a major in International Relations.

I had fully intended to go work for the CIA or State Department, but after a summer in Boston where I met my husband, plans changed. Instead of Washington, we ended up moving to California and living in Pleasanton in the Bay Area where we raised our two children and where we still have a home.

During that time I went back to school to earn a teaching credential and that led to 25 years teaching 4th and 5th grades in the Livermore School District. I taught every subject, including science. Field trips to the tidepools, local habitat parks, the Oakland Museum, and weeklong Outdoor Education programs in the Redwoods were great learning experiences and fun for the students.

After retiring from teaching I completed a yearlong Docent training program in Natural Science and Ecology at the Oakland Museum of California. I've enjoyed taking students on tours in the Natural Science Gallery for 10 years now. I love their enthusiasm and I feel I'm making some small contribution to the future by fostering their appreciation for the natural environment.

Also after retirement, came my appointment by the City of Pleasanton to the Board of the newly formed South Livermore Valley Agricultural Land Trust. It was a wonderful learning experience, not only locally, but also in the opportunity to



Lois Lutz on the Gualala Bluff Trail. Photo by Bob Rutemoeller

get to know the wider land trust community. The South Livermore Trust did have an important advantage over other newly formed trusts. It was able to start out with the funding necessary to pay for staff, lease an office, and set up an endowment. That financial backing enabled us to accomplish a great deal, and it is that experience that drives me to want to help RCLC expand its membership and gain sufficient funding to employ at least one staff person.

Being part of an organization that makes a difference, where you can see the results first hand, is a terribly rewarding experience. I encourage anyone with an interest in land conservation to join with us, learn more about what we do, and help however you're able. 🌲

In Memory & Honor

RCLC thanks you for your generous donations. We cherish the opportunity to conserve spectacular lands in Northern California's ridges and coast. Our deepest appreciation goes to: **Lena and Jeff** in honor of **Warren Jones, Betty and Bill Burns** in memory of **Cora Matheson, Peter and Mary Elias** in honor of **Ceilie Bowers, Jay Faulkner** in memory of **Lorraine M Johansen, Jay Faulkner** in memory of **Mary Etta Woosley, Barbara Gomes** in memory of **Carl Pardini, Barbara Gomes** in memory of **Howard Bogert, George Rathmell** in memory of **Margaret Rathmell, Dave and Charlotte Scholz** in honor of **Ray and Florence Van de Water, Harmony Susalla** in honor of her father, **Ronald Herman, Harmony and Sus Susalla** in memory of **Haiku Wilson** *More generous donations came from:* **Dorothy King Young Chapter of California Native Plant Society** to help RCLC purchase two additional lots at Hearn Gulch, **Ken and Marian Brown, Jay Faulkner, Warren Jones, Bill Perry, Sun Microsystems Foundation, Arthur and Bonnie Toy, Walter Wells and Linda Morley-Wells, An Anonymous Donor** sent \$5000 to match the donations received from the Community Report mailing in August. 🌲

HARMONY SUSALLA IS RCLC PRIZE WINNER



Sus and Harmony Sussala. Photo by Bob Rutemoeller

area. A motion detector turned on a recording that let you hear the "Trees" talk. Her response on winning: "I am very honored and touched. This project was a very collaborative effort with all technical achievement attributed to my father, Ron Herman. Without his expertise, help, love and voice this would not have been possible." Harmony donated her prize back to RCLC in honor of her father. 🌲

Harmony Susalla won RCLC's prize at the Gualala Art Center's Environmental Art Show. She tucked a solar-powered exhibit in the Redwood Circle next to the new deck in the meditation

SLIDE SHOW AND POT LUCK DINNER

Friday, November 19

6:30 dinner. 7:30 program

Gualala Community Center

By Bob Rutemoeller and Mary Sue Ittner

The Redwood Coast Land Conservancy (RCLC) will sponsor a potluck dinner and slide show to benefit its local coastal access projects. Please bring your own dishes and place settings and food to share. Decaf coffee and hot water for tea will be provided. Mary Sue Ittner and Bob Rutemoeller joined Dard and Mary Hunter, Heinz and Lisa Gewing, and John and Jackie Petersen on a hiking trip to the UK in May. Join us to review the highlights of their hikes in Cornwall, The Lake District, Scotland, and the Yorkshire Dales. There is no fee to attend, but tax deductible donations to RCLC will be appreciated and gladly accepted. We will have brief reports about our current activities. Invite your friends and neighbors. For more information call Bob at 884-4426 or Mary Sue at 884-4824. 🌲



Return Service Requested

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